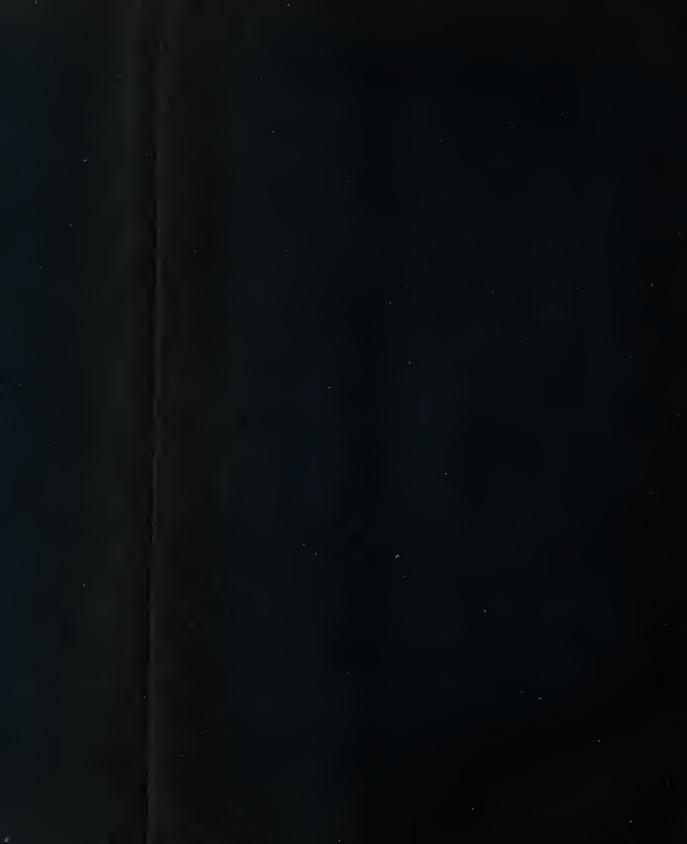
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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL. ATHERTON.

Public Bealth Department.

ATHERTON, MARCH, 1911.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report upon the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District for the year 1910.

The area of your district is 2269 acres. The district is divided into North, South, East, West, and Central Wards, but for Sanitary purposes, the houses being to all intents and purposes contiguous, it may be considered as one Sanitary area. Only Howe Bridge and Hindsford, are at all separated from the main portion of the town, and the small space which separates them from the latter is rapidly being filled in with houses.

The town lies more or less on a slope, which faces South, and varies from a height of 251-ft. on the North, to 102-ft. on the South side.

This aspect might have been utilized to derive all the advantages of what simlight we obtain during the year, but unfortunately, during an age when this was not considered, streets, and rows of houses have been laid down in a manner which permits of very little, if any, sunlight ever gaining access to them.

The District lies upon the Coal measures, with, generally, a surface of clay, which, theoritically, is conducive to chest affections and "rheumatic" conditions, but practically does not appear to be, so as far as the latter is concerned.

The principal industries are coal mining and cotton spinning, whilst a large number of people are employed in the nut and bolt industry and by the South Lancashire Tramway Society. The effect of easy travelling facilities is felt, by the numbers of people employed in the district who live in other towns, viz., Bolton, Leigh, and Tyldesley, and their intercourse probably makes an appreciable difference to the health of the District, especially with regard to infectious diseases.

The **estimated population** is 19,600, shewing a large increase since the census in 1901, the population then being estimated at 16,211.

The **deaths** during the year at all ages number 363. Of this number 100 occurred at the Leigh Union Workhouse, and of these 88 belonged, and have been allocated to, other districts; 13 deaths occurred in Institutions outside the District, and have been numbered in the nett deaths actually belonging to the District, viz., 288. From this number (288) the death-rate amounts to 14.67 per 1,000, which is greater than last year, 12.5, and 1908 with 13.1; but much lower than the mean of the 10 years 1899-1908, which was 16.4 per 1,000.

The **Births** registered in the town number 519, giving a rate of 26:47 per 1,000, a great fall from last year, 36:0, and 1908, 35:5, and a mean of 35:2 for the ten years 1899-1908.

The **Infantile Mortality:**—During the year, 80 deaths of infants under one year were notified, giving a rate of 154·1 per 1,000 births registered as compared to a rate of 97 last year, 131 in 1908, and a mean of 165, for the ten years 1899-1908. Of these deaths 10 were attributed to Premature Birth, and 10 due to Congenital Defects, and these, in one sense, can scarcely be called Preventible Deaths.

On the whole, it cannot be said in this district, as in many other working class districts, that mothers do not take precautions before the birth of a child. Married women are not occupied in such numbers as we hear of in other places, nor do they continue so long at work, but there appears to be an increase of bottle, as against breast, feeding, and there remains still a great amount of ignorance as to the suitable food that a baby requires. The fault is almost always over feeding, and I have no hesitation is saying that many more children's diseases in this district are caused by too much, rather than too little, food. Many babies, especially bottle fed babies, are in a constant state of being fed.

Tuberculous Diseases were responsible for 11 deaths, and wasting diseases (possibly Tuberculosis) for 3. Diarrhoæ caused 6 deaths, and the comparative immunity from this disease is probably due to the summer which was wet, and without any prolonged periods of heat.

The death-rate from the germ **principal Zymotic Diseases** was Equal to 1.98 per 1,000 against 1.00 kst year, 3.06 in 1908, and a mean of 3.58 during 10 years 1899-1908.

The causes were: Small Pox (nil), Measles (8), Scarlet Fever (3), Whooping Cough (16), Diptheria and Membranous Croup (2), Typhoid Fever (3), and Diarrhoæ (7).

The notifications numbered 169, of which there were, Diptheria (20), Erysipelas (36), Scarlet Fever (88), Typhoid (19), and Ophthalmia Neonatorum (6).

Measles was Epidemic during the latter portion of the year, and as usual spread rapidly over the whole District. I believe I perceive an awakening in the Public mind as to the extreme danger of neglecting this disease, usually so easy to treat if taken in time and seriously; and so fraught with danger when neglected. It seems curious, but it is an undoubted fact that many young mothers would treat this disease seriously, were it not

that they are afraid of the older generation that dubs it "ouly measles." Many a mother has told me when called in to a child with some serious complication following upon measles, that she would have sent sooner, but for "what the neighbours would say." The "ridicule of the neighbour" would show a big mortality if it could be put into figures. I must confess that I have found closure of schools of little use in checking epidemics, but I am of the opinion that notification of the first case in each house would be useful, because it would then become necessary to isolate each patient, and, plus notification, closure of an infant department where the disease first appeared might prevent its spreading to other schools.

Scarlet Fever:—The deaths from this disease numbered 3, all of which occurred at the Isolation Hospital. The number of notifications received was 88, and of these 43 were sent to Hospital. Last month I made a special report upon this disease, and possibly the suggestions then made may have had some effect in diminishing the number of cases. In that report I have stated that in my opinion, most of the cases are caused by children coming into contact with a mild unrecognised case, whilst there is no doubt that theatres and public entertainments, provide their share of danger.

Typhoid Fever.—The number of cases reported was 19, of these 7 were sent to Hospital. There were 3 deaths, 2 of which occurred in Hospital. This is one of the infective diseases that lends itself to effective control by improvement in Sanitary conditions. I have little doubt, that when privy-middens are absolutely abolished, the control of this disease will be established; and this condition is rapidly being brought about.

The origin of some of these cases was traced to other towns, two occurred at the Workhouse, whilst six occurred at Howe Bridge. One had partaken of mussels, and one lived in a house where there had been a case of Typhoid in 1908.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup were responsible for 20 notifications, and 2 deaths. There has been no Epidemic, and most of the cases were of mild type. Anti-Diphtheritic Serum is supplied free of charge to Medical men who apply to me.

Whooping Cough again supplies a number of deaths, viz., 16, and this disease, along with Measles, is treated as of no moment. The popular "cures" for this disease are the "Gas Works," and "Fresh air." The latter must not be admitted to the patient in the house, but the patient must go to the fresh air. For this reason the little patient is sent out in all kinds of weather, to cough and vomit in the roadway. In this manner, is the disease spread. It is a common occurrence during an epidemic, to see a child suffering from Whooping Cough depositing the contents of the stomach in the tram cars, in railway carriages, and on the pavement. It is not an uncommon thing to hear of a child so suffering being sent to school, and if not sent by the parents, to be sent for by the School Authorities. Sanitary Authorities have to pay dearly for this compulsory attendance at school.

Tubercular Phthisis or Consumption has caused 21 deaths, giving a rate of 1.07, as compared to 0.87, last year, 1.05 in 1908, and a mean of 1.03 for the 10 years 1899 to 1908. 11 of these deaths occurred between the ages of 25 and 65, and 5 between 15 and 25. It is between the limit of these ages that a man or woman is of most use to

the community, and every death represents a direct loss to the town, to say nothing of the misery caused by the disease. There is a hope that something tangible may be done for Consumptive patients, and a generous, but anonymous, donor, has given the sum of £500, towards the erection of a building which shall be mainly for the Education of Consumptives, but at present we have arrived at an "impasse," owing to the refusal of the Local Government Board, to sanction the expenditure necessary for maintenance. It is hoped, however, that difficulties may be overcome, and that this disease will soon be tackled in earnest. In case such a building as I have mentioned above be taken in hand, may I take this opportunity to suggest that there is no occasion for anyone living in close proximity to this building to be afraid, as there would be little danger of infection. The fact that Consumptives were drawn from the district, would, indeed, render the individual chances of Infection less, as they (the consumptives) would be taught how to minimise the risk of Infection, whilst, without such a building, they would probably be spreading the disease promiscuously over the town.

Further, I can only repeat my annual remark, that in my opinion compulsory notification is necessary; and also add that the provision of wide streets and open spaces, and the building of houses with every regard to efficient ventilation and admission of sunlight, and the strict superintendence of meat and milk supply, are all aids to the prevention of this terrible disease.

Diarrhoea.—The deaths from this disease numbered 7. Probably the absence of any prolonged spell of heat accounts for the comparatively small amount of this disease, which is so fatal during a hot summer. Dietary, of course, has an enormous effect on the occurrence of Diarrhoea, and many mothers seem to have very vague ideas as to the proper diet for children. Tea (large bowls of which are given at each meal) is considered the proper drink. Cold water is anotherma, and milk, in many cases is never even taken into the house.

Were I asked to suggest the chief evils of the present day with regard to children, I should say "tea drinking," "want of rest," and "too much School." Very many children are not in bed before 10 p.m., and one constantly sees children of tender years in the streets after this hour. One often has to advise a mother whose child is anaemic, sleepless, and with loss of appetite, that a week or two from school is all the child needs, and given that, the child becomes quite well. From the same cause also, the question of defective vision is becoming a serious question.

The Milk Supply is derived largely from farms in the district and near neighbour-hood, a small proportion coming by rail.

The farms are kept in fairly good, but not by any means ideal, condition.

Grooming of cows and cleanliness of person is often absent, and the former, most farmers absolutely refuse to do.

I am of the opinion that all farms from which the milk supply of a town is derived, should be subject to the inspection of the Medical Officer of that town, and it should be made compulsory that notification of Infections Disease at a farm, which may be outside the district, should be extended to the Medical Officer of Health of the district to which that farms milk is supplied.

The **Water Supply** derived mostly from Manchester (Thirlmere), with a small quantity from Bolton, is abundant, and for the most part, of good quality.

Slaughter Houses have been inspected periodically. For the most part they are kept in good condition, floors cleaned and well drained, walls limewashed. One slaughter house was not satisfactory, and this condition I mentioned to your Sanitary Inspector, who has arranged that it shall be remedied.

Two of the Butchers keep swine under conditions which contravene the bye-laws.

I take this opportunity of thanking those teachers at the Schools who have rendered invaluable aid by early notification of Infectious Diseases. These notifications are often of the greatest assistance to the Sanitary Officials.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES MARSH, M.B., C.M.

Medical Officer of Health.

Summary of Medical Officer's Report for 1910.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ATHERTON.

Area in Statute Acres—2,269.

Population (Census) 1901—16,211.

Population (Estimated) 1910—19,600.

Medical Officer of Health-James Marsh.

Salary—£80.

Births registered—Males, 239; Females, 280; total, 519.

Death registered (net deaths belonging to the district)—Males, 146; Fennales, 142; total, 288.

Birth rate—26:47. Death rate—14:67.

Rate of Infant Deaths, under 1 year, to 1,000 Births—1541.

Death Rate from the seven principal epidemic diseases per 1,000 of population—1'98.

Diseases specially prevalent—Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough. Period—Throughout the year.

Any Schools closed-No.

Number of Special Reports made under Art. 18 (15) L.G.B. Order, March, 1691?—None.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation? For Small-pox—Leigh Joint Hospital. For other Infectious Diseases—Leigh Joint Hospital. Is it joint or otherwise? Joint. Number of Beds available for your District? For Small-pox—Varies. For other Infectious Diseases—Varies. Number of cases removed to hospital from your District?—Small-pox, nil; Diphtheria, 2; Scarlet Fever, 43; Enteric Fever, 7; total, 52. Deaths in Hospital of patients from your District? (From what causes)?—5 Typhoid, 2; Scarlet Fever, 3.

How is Disinfection carried out? Houses—Funnigation, Sulphur, Formalin, &c. Number of Houses disinfected?—133 (216 rooms). Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise)?—Mason's Steam. Where is apparatus situated?—Gas Works.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease reported under the Notification Act—169. Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Act notifiable (for instance, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa, Chicken Pox, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, &c.)? If so what are they?—Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Bacteriological Examinations. Number and nature of specimens examined?—Nonc.

- Has any arrangement been made for the "voluntary" notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis?—Yes.
- Number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis reported under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908?—2.
- Has any arrangement been made under the Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910?—Yes, Anti-toxin supplied free to Medical Men.
- Action taken under "The Honsing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1909." Number of Dwelling-houses inspected?—30; Number of Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation?—1; Number of Representations to Authority with view to the making of Closing Orders?—1; Number of Closing Orders made?—1; Number of Dwelling-houses in whice defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders?—29; Number of Dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after the making of Closing Orders?—1. General character of defects found to exist?—Defective walls, roofs, floors, light and ventilation.
- From where is the Water Supply obtained? Manchester and Bolton. What is its condition?—Abundant and generally good. Is it subject to your inspection?—Not at its source.
- Is Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily?—Yes. How performed (by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses?—By Sanitary Authority.
- How is the Refuse disposed of ?—Destructor, Tips, Land, &c. Has a Destructor been provided ?—Yes.
- Sewage Disposal Works. Method of treatment?—Leigh Sewage Works. Precipitation tanks and land. Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.?—Periodical flushings and testings.
- Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams?—None.
- What is the condition of the Bakehouses?—Good; Slanghter Houses?—Satisfactory; Has a Public Abattoir been provided?—No. Lodging Honses—(None).
- What is the Sanitary condition of the Schools?—Satisfactory.
- Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—Are they periodically inspected?—Yes; What is their condition?—Fairly Good; Have Regulations been made under the order of the L.G.B.?—Yes; Are they enforced?—Yes; Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow?—600 cubic feet? Number of Cowkeepers?—23; Number on Register?—23; Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)?—27; Number on Register?—27.

- Food unfit for Human Consumption: Amount seized?—3 Boxes of Smoked Haddocks; 3 Boxes of Kippers; 1 Pig. Number of Legal Proceedings, and result?—Nil.
- Department of Inspector of Nuisances—Number of Notices served?—9; Nuisances remedied? 614.
- Closet accommodation of the District.—Number of Privy Middens?—359; Pail Closets?—8; Fresh Water Closets?—1449; Waste Water Closets?—1391; Number of Privy Middens converted during 1910?—to W.C.'s—86 to 191 W.C's.
- Smoke.—Number of Observations?—16; Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result?

 2 Notices served; What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?—Fifteen minutes in the hour.
- Has the Anthority adopted—"The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890"?—Yes; "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907"?—Yes; "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890"?—Yes; "The Notification of Births Act, 1907"?—Yes.

Has a Health Visitor been appointed?—No.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1910?—Acceleration of House Building.

Chief Sanitary requirements of Dirtrict?—Further Privy conversions. More Houses.

(Signed) JAMES MARSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1911.

TABLE III.

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the year 1910.

		Cases Notified in whole District.		
Notifiable Disease.		At Ages – Years.	Total Cases removed	Deaths in Hospital of Patients
		Under 1 to 5 5 to 15 15 to 20 25 to 65 and uwpards	to Hospital	removed from this District.
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) Erysipelas Scarlet Fever Enteric Fever Ophthalmia Neonatorium	20 36 88 19 6	Ages not always Specified.	2 43 7 	 3 2
Totals	169		52	ŏ

Isolation Hospital—Leigh Joint Hospital, Astley. Total available Beds—Varies.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated—Four.

TABLE IV.

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT. Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1910.

CAUSES	OF DEATHS.				DEATH	Total Deaths whether of Residents or non- Residents						
						Under 1 year	I and under 5			25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	in Public
Measles					6	2	6					
Scarlet Fever					3			3		l I		
Whooping Cough	ı				16	5	9	1			1	1
Diphtheria (includ		embrai		ronn	2		1	1		1	1	
Y2 1 Y2 1	•••			1	3				1	2		
Diarrhœa (all Fo	rms)				7	6	1					3
Enteritis					8	7				1		
Phthisis					20	1	2	1	5	11	1	10
Other Tuberculor	is Dise	eases			16	10	1	3	1	1		$\frac{1}{2}$
Cancer, Malignar					9					8	1	$\overline{4}$
Bronehitis					20	9	1			4	6	$2\overline{0}$
Pneumonia					14	1	1		2	10		3
Other Diseases of	f Resp	iritory	Organ	ıs	21	5	11			1	4	1
Alcholism-Cirrle	osis of	Liver			3					3		$\overline{2}$
Premature Birth					10	10						1
Heart Diseases					29	1	1	2		11	14	9
Accidents					16		4		2	6	4	1
All other causes		•••	•••		70	23	2		2	21	22	43
All Ca	uses				276	80	40	11	13	79	53	100

TABLE V.

Name of District—ATHERTON URBAN. Infantile Mortality during the year 1910.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 months	3-4 Months	4.5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10.11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes $Certified \dots \dots$		16	6	1	2	25	6	9	1.	4	3	5	8	2	9	4	4	80
Common Infectious Diseases— Measles Whooping Cough						•••					1		1 1	1	1			2 5
Diarrhœal Diseases— Diarrœa, all forms Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis		1				1 1				į			ш					$\frac{6}{7}$
Wasting Diseases— Premature Birth Congenital Defects Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	•••	6 5 	2 2 		 1	8 8	1		1									10 10 3
Tuberculous Diseases— Tuberculous Meningitis Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica Other Tuberculous Diseases										1	1		1					4 4 3
Other Causes— Rickets Convulsions Bronchitis Pneumonia Other Causes		1				1		3				 1 1	•••				1	1 3 9 1 12
		16	6	1	2	25	6	9	1	4	3	5	8	2	9	4	4	80

Population estimated to middle of 1910, 19600.

Births in the year, legitimate, 519.

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 80.

Deaths from all causes at all Ages, 288.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, ATHERTON.

Sanitary Inspector's Department.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my report of the work done in the Sanitary Department during the year ending December 31st, 1910.

Thirty-three samples of milk were purchased in the District, and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst. Thirty of the samples were stated to be genuine. Sample No. 124 was said to contain the parts as under:—

2.77% Fat.

8.70% Other Solids.

11:47% Total Solids.

and was slightly deficient in cream.

I was instructed to obtain a further sample, which was stated to be genuine.

Sample No. 137 was said to contain the parts as under:--

2.48% Fat.

9.22% Other Solids.

11.70°/, Total Solids.

and to be very deficient in cream.

In this case proceedings were taken. The case was dismissed on payment of costs, £3 18s. 0d.

There were also purchased in the District, by the County Authorities:-

47 samples of Milk

1 ,, of White Pepper

2 ,, of Butter

4 ,, of Margarine

2 ,, of Lard

1 ,, of Coffee

57

All of these were stated to be gennine, with the exception of two samples of milk; the vendors in these cases were cantioned.

Three samples of water were submitted to Professor Boyce for Bacteriological examination, and three samples were submitted for Chemical Analysis.

There are 72 workshops on the register, including 23 Bakehouses, these are all visited and inspected. Notices are sent out to the bakehouses reminding the occupiers of the periodical Lime-washing.

There are also nineteen Chip Potato Shops which are regularly inspected.

There are fourteen Slaughter-honses on the Register, two of them being registered, and twelve of them are licensed annually. They are kept in good order, being regularly visited, and the meat, &c., examined. Notices are sent to the occupiers reminding them of the periodical Line-washing, which, I am pleased to say, is always promptly done.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS. TIME LIMIT: 15 MINUTES IN THE HOUR.

There were sixteen observations. In two cases where the limit was exceeded, notices were served on the firms to abate the unisance. In one case new Boilers fitted with Automatic Stokers, were installed, since then there has been no reason for complaint.

There are twenty registered Cowkeepers and Dairymen, and also eight Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk residing in the District. In addition there are seventeen Cowkeepers, Dairymen, and Purveyors of Milk, registered, who reside outside the District.

NUMBER OF NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE YEAR.

Defective	Slopstone Pipes	59	Damp Walls	18
"	Walls behind the Slopstone	52	Slopstone disconnected from drain	3
,,	Gullies	22	Fowls in yards	9
"	Pavements round Gullies		Dilapidated Ashpits rebuilt	
,,	Rainwater pipe and spout-	ລະ	Blocked drains, &c	
>>	Rainwater pipes disconnect ed from drain	-	Accumulation, &c., in back yards , of Manure	
,,	Roofs		Absence of Ashpails	
**	Flushing apparatus to W.C.		Water in Cellar	1
••	W.C. Basins		Closets without doors	7
,,	Ventilation Pipes		Overcrowding	
,,	Urinal	1	Dirty and verminous houses cleaned	39
,,	Pavements in back yards	32	_	614
,,	Tippler to W. W.C	20	=	_

It was necessary to serve legal notices in 9 cases only.

Conversions of Privy-middens:

Water Closets provided				191
Privy-middens abolished				86
Aslipit Floors raised and	cen	iente	d	73
Pails in lieu of Ashpits				48
Number of Ashpails clean	eđ		1	7120
" Ashpits "		٠.		6029

2286 loads of refuse were removed to the destructor, weighing 3,501 tons. An increase on the year of 123 tons.

Number of Privy-middens cleared, 1,588; loads to farms 1,022; to tips, 870 loads.

Under the Poor Law (Therenlosis) Regulations two cases were notified. The cases were visited and instructions given, and disinfectants and spitting flasks supplied.

ROOMS DISINFECTED AFTER CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

		Rooms.	Beds.	Pillows and Clothing	Pooks.	Limewashed.	Stripped Re-papered.
Scarlet Fever		113	57	324	14	34	14
Typhoid Fever		17	17	54		10	4
Diphtheria		20					
Phthisis (deaths)		14	6	20			
do. (destroyed)			4				
Dirty & verminous hous cleaned	ses	39			•		
						_	
		203	83	398	14	44	18

All the Elementary Day Schools were funigated and the floors sprayed three times during the year.

On November 2nd, 1910, I was appointed as the Officer designated to make inspections of dwelling-houses, under Article 1 (3) and Article 2 of the Housing (inspection of district) Regulations, 1910, made by the Local Government Board; under and for the purposes of Sub-section 1, of Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

Provision has been made for the Card Index system of keeping records of Inspection, and I hope that as a result of the inspections made, and the Sanitary improvements effected thereby, to improve the general sanitary condition, and at the same time to render the conditions of life more pleasant.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

KAY JEPSON, A.R.S.I.

(Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods).

